



**Sheriff Carlton Speed**  
Banks County Sheriff's Office  
160 Windmill Farm Road • Homer, Georgia 30547

DATE: June 18, 2020  
TO: IA File # 2001 (External Agency Investigation-Rabun Co.)  
FROM: Major Matt Allen  
SUBJECT: Sergeant Michael Carnes, Rabun County Sheriff's Office

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**Wednesday, June 17, 2020 @ 1758 hours**

This interview was conducted on June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020, by Matt Allen and Carissa McFaddin of the Banks County Sheriff's Office. Carnes acknowledged familiarity with a complaint about Captain Richard Hunter's "drinking." On Sunday, the 14<sup>th</sup>, Carnes was approached by Scott Harvey in the Sheriff's Office parking lot. According to Carnes, Harvey requested to turn his guns over to him, stating he was "done." Harvey continued with his explanation advising "someone from this office called his wife drunk and was trying to get her to come over." Carnes stated he speculated Captain Richard Hunter made this call to Harvey's wife because Hunter has some drinking issues.

Carnes was requested to elaborate on his familiarity with the drinking issues. Carnes described the inability of dispatch to make contact with Hunter in the evening. Carnes further confirms the drinking issues by elaborating on the numerous calls he receives from Hunter while Hunter is in an intoxicated state. Carnes states he gets irritated with the calls because he goes "on and on." Some of these calls are about official ongoing business. Carnes states he uses his "best judgment" on whether to follow instructions from Hunter when he knows Hunter is intoxicated. Carnes also states he advised Chief Mark Jones about his drinking, requesting something to be done about it. As an example, Carnes states when he is in the office and receives a call from Hunter, the other deputies comment by saying, oh, he is drunk. Carnes states the drinking gets on his nerves and puts a bad image on the Sheriff's Office because everyone knows.

Carnes describes this pattern of intoxicated phone calls since Hunter became his Captain in 2017. Carnes described an issue within the last three months where he just laid the phone down and let him talk. Carnes states, "When he is drinking, I'm not listening." Carnes says he will call Chief Jones if he needs clarification on an issue he cannot get resolved when Hunter is intoxicated. However, Carnes describes Hunter as a good supervisor and Captain when he is on duty and not drunk.

Questions to Carnes surrounding inappropriate sexual conversations at the Sheriff's Office prompted Carnes to remember hearing inappropriate sexual banter around the Sheriff's Office. Carnes offered no specific examples. Carnes also recalled Hunter describing the sexual relationship he has with his wife. Carnes states this information is not solicited or relevant to the conversation. Carnes described Hunter as a "different bird," and everyone knows that Hunter likes "yoga pants." Carnes states these detailed sexual comments usually occur on the phone when Hunter is intoxicated and comes out of nowhere. Carnes has also heard Hunter make less graphic but what he perceives as inappropriate comments around the secretary at the Sheriff's Office. The interview with Carnes occurred for 26 minutes.

